



**GENESIS**  
*Grace from the Beginning*

**7/8 April 2018**  
Vol. 40, No. 13

## Abraham and Abimelech

*Genesis 20*

**English Services**  
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Worship through Giving  
Testimony  
Scripture Reading  
Worship in the Word  
*Pastor Larry Pabiona*  
Benediction

**Filipino Service**  
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda  
Tawag sa Pagsamba  
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit  
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita  
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay  
Patotoo  
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos  
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos  
*Pastor Sam Rendal*  
Pangwakas na Panalangin  
at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



# Abraham and Abimelech

Today's Message (7/8 April 2018) /  
*Genesis 20*

BY PROTECTING SARAH, WE SEE THAT GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN REGARDING THE SON OF PROMISE COULD NOT BE DERAILED EVEN BY THE FAILURES OF HIS PEOPLE. SIMILARLY, WITH ALL OUR FOLLIES AND FOIBLES, YOUR FUTURE AS A BELIEVER IS GUARANTEED BY THE SOVEREIGN GRACE OF GOD.

Like he did in Egypt (*see Genesis 12:10-20*), Abraham lied to King Abimelech of Gerar about Sarah to save himself, using again the half-truth that Sarah was his sister. This foolish decision not only damaged his testimony, but endangered Abimelech, the king of Gerar, as well as Sarah herself and the future "son of promise."

We must realize that our sins often have roots in the past, yet do their damage in the present—but praise God, His sovereign grace secures our future (*Romans 8:28*).

In all of these, we must not forget that even as believers our failings hurt those who are not yet God's people, as we see from this narrative that God cares for them, too:

## 1. THE RECURRENCE OF A DECEPTION: ABRAHAM'S LIE AND GOD'S PRESERVATION OF SARAH (VV. 1-7)

- Habits of sin are hard to break. Abraham makes the same mistake he once did, and for the same reason—fear. Despite this, we see God divinely protecting Sarah from Abimelech.
- By protecting Sarah, we see that God's sovereign plan regarding the son of promise could not be derailed even by the failures of his people. Similarly, with all our follies and foibles, your future as a believer is guaranteed by the sovereign grace of God (*Romans 8:28-30*).

## 2. THE REBUKE OF A DECEIVER: ABRAHAM IS SOUNDLY REPROVED BY ABIMELECH (VV. 8-13)

- The events here reveal that the consequences of a believer's sin often impacts even the innocent people around them (*Jonah 1:3-15*).

### Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Larry Pabiona*

Response Hymn

Benediction



# Abraham and Abimelech

Today's Message (7/8 April 2018) /  
*Genesis 20*

- Some recurrent sins may be traced to poor decisions we made in the past, or because we got away with the same sin in the past. Rebuke, exposure, and even discipline are greater blessings than we admit. Like Hebrews 12:11 says, “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later however, it produces a harvest of *righteousness and peace* for those who have been trained by it.”

Pity those professing believers who “always seem to get away with it.” They won’t.

### 3. THE RESTORATION OF A DISASTER: GOD’S VINDICATION AND HEALING OF ABIMELECH (VV. 14-18)

- The doctrine of common grace teaches that God’s goodness extends even to unbelievers. We see this in the way God restores the family of Abimelech from the disaster Abraham brought upon them. One purpose of common grace is revealed in Romans 2:4 when it asks: “do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?”
- The story closes with one of the clearest examples of the power of intercessory prayer in the Bible (*cf. Job 42:8-10*). As with Job and Abraham, your prayers for others are more valuable than you think.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Even believers today struggle with repeated sins, many of which are rooted in unresolved issues of the past. Sometimes we also walk in fear instead of faith, and we commit further mistakes, like Abraham. And more often than not, they hurt more people than we realize.

The Bible consistently teaches that the antidote to fear is faith. As you walk in faith, may it rid you of the fear that often leads you to failure. As you do, be assured that no matter what happens, God’s sovereign grace is always greater than our failures ■

### NOTES



## GCF ORTIGAS YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY

Today's worship gatherings will be led by several members of the **Young Adults (YA) Ministry** of our GCF family. Even as we resume our sermon series on Genesis, led by our Senior Pastor—those who will preside, lead our time of worship through song, and even those in the production, are part of the young adults community. During our brief time of fellowship, we will appreciate not only our first-time guests but also our **young adults—those who belong to the 21-35 years old demographic**. Today, we would like to grab the opportunity to share the faithfulness of our God through the young adults community of GCF.

This ministry has been part of the church's life for quite some time. From being called the "Crossover Singles Ministry" (which focused more on the single men and women of GCF), in recent years it has expanded to cover all 21 to 35 year olds. They say that the youth is the future

of the church, and the young adults find themselves in both being the future and the present. They face a unique, and often stressful "transition period" in their lives wherein they are trying to plant deep, lifetime roots, so to speak, especially in terms of career or vocation and relationships.

As a young adult myself, I had the privilege of briefly leading the ministry alongside Pastor Ian de Ocampo during my first year as GCF pastoral staff. Today, it is led by the newest addition to our young pastor-dads: Pastor Dags Miguel.

To all the young adults of GCF—whether you are a fresh college graduate, a single professional, or even a young married couple—we appreciate you and your presence in our church family. Please know that *you are always welcome* in this spiritual home. We hope that when the presider asks you during worship service, you will stand so we can know who you are. Our ushers will hand you a brochure that will allow you to know more about our YA community here. We would also like to honor your presence with a small token, which you can get at the lobby later after the service ■



A Discipleship Conference

We are forming a **prayer team** to pray for this event. If you are interested to be part of this team, please send an email to [dc2018@gcf.org.ph](mailto:dc2018@gcf.org.ph) or text **0917 532 1921**. Please provide your name, contact number, and/or email address. Thank you!

11-12 May 2018  
here at GCF

featuring  
Edmund Chan and  
Ann Chan



# Ablaze Devotional

**The beginning of the gospel  
of Jesus Christ, the Son of  
God. - Mark 1:1 (ESV)**

There are two kinds of stories, and two kinds of readers. One kind of story seek to entertain, even distract its audience. Such stories assume that their readers are mere onlookers, passive spectators. We experience this in movies, news, and political speeches. The performers keep a safe distance between the performance and the audience.

The other kind of story intends to change its audience. It appeals to readers to engage the story. In reading it, they also let the story read them, eventually being part of it. The gospel story of Jesus is like this. It invites us to reflect and process its witness to His truth and His person. As we do, we are ushered into the community of His kingdom, and into a journey of transformation.

During the time of the apostles, the word 'gospel' was associated with Roman propaganda. News of military victories or birth of a new emperor was heralded "good news" throughout the empire. It treated Caesar a god as it bannered Pax Romana, Roman Peace—a symbol of conquest, control and subjugation, a picture of world power.

Contrast that with how Mark used 'gospel'. It echoes the first words of the creation story, the beginning. It retells God's rule and creative work in the world, now in the truth and person of Jesus Christ. It banners peace, but in terms of restoration, communion, and reconciliation, the reality of God's sovereignty.

Living in God's kingdom, joining God's story, let us carry with us the message of His gospel. May we be living stories of Jesus' peace—restoring, communing, and reconciling the world to His kingdom ■

## GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

**The GCF Hour of Prayer**  
*Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.*

**Midweek Prayer Service**  
*Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.*

## Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements

### BIBLICAL PORTRAIT OF MARRIAGE I

*Those who have missed classes in previous batches are encouraged to attend this batch.*

April 14, 21, & 28 (Sats.) 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
at the Fellowship Hall | **Last day of reg.:** April 8  
Contact Dana at 0917 532 7741 to register

### S.H.E. PHOTOWALK FELLOWSHIP

*S.H.E. is a ministry for God's single women*

April 21 (Sat.), at the Pintô Art Museum  
Time: 7 a.m. to 12 nn. | Entrance fee: PhP 200.00  
Contact 0917 532 7794 to register/for more info

### SHIPWRECKED: RESCUED BY JESUS

*GCF Daily Vacation Bible Study (DVBS) 2018*

May 28 to June 2 (Mon.-Sat.), 8 a.m. to 12 noon  
here at GCF | **For kids ages 3-12**

Registration is online: <https://vbsspro.events/p/events/dvbsshipwrecked2018>

### HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

*A tour of holy sites in Israel, Egypt and Jordan to be led by Pastor Larry Pabiona*

October 23 to November 5, 2018

For more details please contact Mina Tanchi at 633 8959 or e-mail [smpaguitatrvl@yahoo.com](mailto:sampaguitatrvl@yahoo.com)

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

*March 2018*

	March Budget	Received, Mar. 1-31
General	8,156,063	7,066,703
Missions	927,000	940,772
	Jan. - Mar. Budget	Received, Jan. - Mar.
General	28,952,111	21,246,004
Missions	2,781,000	2,618,908

### Flower Ministry

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our loving God and for His mercy and grace by an anonymous donor, Mae Almiraz Yokingco, the Burbano-Martin family, the Valera family and the Messiah College.*

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.





Journey With One

## The challenge of adulting and the blessing of community

by Jerone Ducanes

GCF has always been my second home ever since I was born. I was dedicated here, I attended Sunday school all the way through, became a member of Praise Factory back in my grade school days, and eventually became active and was thoroughly blessed in the Youth Ministry.

After graduating in college, I somehow felt unsure as to what I'll be doing next. I was anxious to know which companies would hire me. I felt insecure again thinking that my worth and value would be based on the responses of the companies where I applied. I was starting to experience what they called the pains of "adulting."

But the Lord renewed my faith and reminded me once more that I should solely rely on Him and to trust His plans for me. It was at this time that He led me to the young adults community of our church. My previous all-girls youth group transitioned to becoming a young adults growth group called TwiGG (True Wisdom in GG), and this is where I mainly fellowship and hold myself accountable to others.

I'm still new in the young adults community but I'm happy to be part of this new family where I know I could spiritually grow into and share my experiences at this stage of my life. It's good to be part of a group where we could relate our experiences and journey with them in the faith, especially as I start my journey as a young adult, and I can't wait for what God has still in store for my life. Imagine, He even opened another door for me to serve Him, as I am now a Harvest trainee member!

If you are a young adult like myself, I encourage you to be part of this community, which I know God will use to also bless you as you go through this stage of your life ■

**ON THE COVER:** Bedouins tending to their resting camels in Wadi Rum in Jordan ([pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)). The kingdom of Gerar in our narrative today was probably situated in a similar desert valley ('wadi' is valley in Hebrew and Arabic) near Beersheba, and was visited by bands of nomads, not unlike the ones pictured in the cover.

# Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

## Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B124  
Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

## Life in Technicolor Support Group for cancer patients

3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 12-3 p.m. at GCF  
(Seniors' Room)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

**8 a.m.:** Ages 1-3, B415; Ages 4-5, B410; Age 6, B414; Age 7, B403; Age 8, B413, Ages 9-10, B411; Ages 11-12, B409; Transition Age 13, B406

**10:30 a.m.:** Ages 1-2, B412; Age 3, B415; Age 4, B408; Age 5, B410; Age 6A, B402; Age 6B, B403; Age 7, B401; Age 8, B413; Age 9, B411; Age 10, B414; Age 11, B409; Age 12, B405; Transition Age 13, B406

**3 p.m.:** Ages 1-5, B415; Ages 6-9, B402; Ages 10-12, B403

**5:30 p.m.:** Ages 1-5, B415; Age 6, B402; Ages 7-9, B401; Ages 10-12, B403; Transition Age 13, B404

**Nursery:** 2<sup>nd</sup> flr. for nursing moms and babies aged one week to 11 months old

**Yayas:** 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., B404

**Sunday School Parents' Class:**  
9:30 a.m., B406

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.*

## 1st GG LEADERS' ASSEMBLY

*To be discussed:* New structure and the GG leader's role  
April 28, (Sat.), 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
at the Fellowship Hall



# Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: [email@gcf.org.ph](mailto:email@gcf.org.ph) • Website: [www.gcf.org.ph](http://www.gcf.org.ph)

# How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**  
(Specify age group: \_\_\_\_\_)  
(Specify group composition: \_\_\_\_\_)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): \_\_\_\_\_

*Today is **24/25 March 2018**, and I attended the **8 a.m.**, **10:30 a.m.**, **3:00 p.m.**, **5:30 p.m.** or **6:00 p.m. (Sat)** (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# God's Way to Heaven

## THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."  
*(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).*

## THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

**God is holy and righteous:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

**Man is sinful:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).  
**Sin demands a penalty:** "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

**Christ is the expression of God's love for us:** "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

**Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior:** "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

---

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

## Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.